

Following graduation, Steve attended Texas A&M University, where he joined the Corps of Cadets and began his journey as a Fightin' Texas Aggie. Steve quickly excelled both in academics and the corps. While at A&M, he was a member of Company F-1, a member of the prestigious Ross Volunteers Honor Guard, and a member of the Ross Volunteers Firing Squad. During his senior year, he served as second battalion commander. In 1969, Steve graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering. He continued at A&M to earn a master's degree in the same discipline.

Steve began his career with Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. Much of his work over his 5 years with Shell focused on designing and pumping large hydraulic fracture treatments to stimulate production from the deep, low permeability geopressured gas reservoirs in south Texas. It was his work with hydraulic fracturing that inspired him to return to Texas A&M and set him apart from his peers as a true legend of the oil and gas industry for the advancement of this critically important technology.

One day in 1970, Steve was riding the elevator at work and met Ann Friddle, who was also working at Shell. Steve and Ann were married 6 months later on January 9, 1971, and they had been married over 48 years when Steve passed away.

He and Ann returned to College Station, and he pursued a Ph.D. in petroleum engineering, which he completed in 1975. In 1976, Steve joined the Texas A&M petroleum engineering faculty, and as if he didn't have enough to do as a young father and new professor, he started his own consulting company, S.A. Holditch & Associates.

S.A. Holditch & Associates quickly became a worldwide powerhouse in the petroleum engineering space. Over the years, Steve earned a reputation for being able to solve the most difficult petroleum engineering problems, especially those dealing with low permeability reservoirs needing stimulation, typically through hydraulic fracturing. He was distinctly proud of the work that Holditch & Associates did alongside the Gas Research Institute to advance understanding of low permeability sandstones, shales, and coalbed methane.

After over 20 years of success, Steve chose to sell Holditch & Associates to Schlumberger, where he stayed on as a fellow, the highest technical designation in that organization. As a Schlumberger Fellow for 5 years, Steve traveled extensively to help solve some of the world's most difficult petroleum engineering problems.

In 1995, at the age of 49, Steve was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the highest honor that can be given to an engineer. After many years of service to the Society of Petroleum Engineers, or SPE, Steve was elected to the board of directors, then

vice president of finance, and finally president of this global organization with over 70,000 members.

He was awarded almost every recognition that SPE has to give, including three of the society's top technical awards. He was elected an SPE honorary member in 2006, the highest award that SPE can bestow upon an individual, and was officially named a Legend of Hydraulic Fracturing by SPE in 2014.

While Steven enjoyed many professional successes in the commercial regime, many of his accomplishments were at Texas A&M University, where he served on the faculty for 37 years. During his tenure, he taught 97 classes and served on over 150 graduate committees. From 2004 to 2012, Steve worked as head of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering.

During this time, he revitalized the Crisman Institute of Petroleum Research and saw the number of students in the petroleum engineering department more than double. Under his leadership, the department quickly earned a reputation as the number one ranked university petroleum engineering department in the world.

It was during his time at A&M that he created this second legacy for America's hydrocarbon industry, the thousands of Aggie petroleum engineers who work around the world every day utilizing Steve's teaching and mentoring to solve the world's greatest energy challenges. Collectively, these pacesetters—George P. Mitchell, Michel T. Halbouty, and Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, and ones they taught and guided—have contributed significantly to America's energy dominance that is changing the world today.

In 2013, Steve retired from the faculty after many years of dedicated service to the Texas A&M community. Throughout his life, Steve often credited Texas A&M University as the foundation from which his success grew. He praised the values instilled in all Aggies, and in 2014, he was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus, an honor he richly deserved for a life of service and devotion to his beloved university. In thanking the Aggie community, Steve said: "You will look back at your years at Texas A&M as one of the best periods of your life. Always remember the Aggie Code of Honor."

In 2016, Steve was inducted in the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor, an award which made him prouder and happier than perhaps any other award he had ever received.

Following retirement, Steve enjoyed spending time in Bryan/College Station, with his wife Ann, their two daughters, and their five grandchildren. As a season ticket holder to a variety of Texas A&M sports, Steve continued to support the Aggies, but Fightin' Texas Aggie Football remained closest to his heart. Steve contributed a great deal to the Texas A&M community and can be described as a model Texas Aggie, who was true to its core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. One of my fa-

vorite phrases that Steve often used was "I reserve the right to get smarter." That is what he did best, always pushing to find solutions to the world's toughest oil and gas challenges.

Mr. Speaker, Steve's life was defined by his dedication to his family and friends, his world-changing accomplishments in energy, and his true love of Texas A&M University. He will be forever remembered as a true pioneer in his field, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, mentor and friend. My father has a saying—"go make a hand." Mr. Speaker, Steve Holditch truly "made a hand" for his family, his university, his community, our country, and the world.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Holditch family. We also lift his family and friends in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen A. Holditch.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 7, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3739. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting a report titled, "Potential Benefits of High-Power, High-Capacity Batteries", pursuant to H.R. 5895; Public Law 115-244; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3740. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that, as a result of confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3741. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3742. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-